

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/811,868

Examiner

Jared I. Rutz

Applicant(s)

KANEDA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/18/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7, 12-18 and 20-24.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 10/18/06
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-7, 12-18, and 20-24, as amended on 4/24/2006, are pending in the instant application. A Notice of Allowance was mailed in this application on 7/26/2006. Prosecution was reopened on 10/18/2006 by Applicant's filing of a Request for Continued Examination. This application is again in condition for allowance.
2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/18/2006 has been considered by the examiner.

### Reasons for Allowance

3. **Claims 1-7, 12-18, and 20-24** are allowed.
4. Independent **claim 1** has been to recite the limitation "*wherein each piece of hierarchy information indicates a data storage apparatus hierarchy of a multistage connection of said data storage apparatuses, including those data storage apparatuses that have storage areas for storing data used by said computers through a storage area of a higher one of said data storage apparatuses according to said hierarchy*". This limitation is taught by the specification at page 8 lines 17-25, and argued by Applicant at page 26 line 16 through page 27 line 5 of the remarks filed 4/24/2006. This limitation is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.
5. **Claims 2-7 and 21-22** are allowed for at least the reasons cited with respect to claim 1.

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6. Independent **claim 12** has been amended to recite the limitation "*wherein each piece of hierarchy information indicates a data storage apparatus hierarchy of a multistage connection of said data storage apparatuses, including those data storage apparatuses that have storage areas for storing data used by said computers through a storage area of a higher one of said data storage apparatuses according to said hierarchy*". This limitation is taught by the specification at page 8 lines 17-25, and argued by Applicant at page 30 lines 10-13 of the remarks filed 4/24/2006. This limitation is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

7. **Claims 23 and 24** are allowed for at least the reasons cited with respect to claim 12.

8. Independent **claim 13** has been amended to recite the limitation "*wherein each piece of hierarchy information indicates a data storage apparatus hierarchy of a multistage connection of said data storage apparatuses, including those data storage apparatuses that have storage areas for storing data used by said computers through a storage area of a higher one of said data storage apparatuses according to said hierarchy*". This limitation is taught by the specification at page 8 lines 17-25, and argued by Applicant at page 31 lines 3-5 of the remarks filed 4/24/2006. This limitation is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

9. **Claims 14-18** are allowed for at least the reasons cited with respect to claim 13.

10. Independent **claim 20** has been amended to recite the limitation "*wherein each piece of hierarchy information indicates a data storage apparatus hierarchy of a*

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*multistage connection of said data storage apparatuses, including those data storage apparatuses that have storage areas for storing data used by said computers through a storage area of a higher one of said data storage apparatuses according to said hierarchy*". This limitation is taught by the specification at page 8 lines 17-25, and argued by Applicant at page 31 lines 16-18 of the remarks filed 4/24/2006. This limitation is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

**Examiner's Amendment**

11. Claims 1-7, 12-18, and 20-24 will be renumbered as follows.

Original	1-7	12	13-18	20	21-22	23-24
Final	1-7	10	13-18	19	8-9	11-12

**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jared I. Rutz whose telephone number is (571) 272-5535. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Sparks can be reached on (571) 272-4201. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

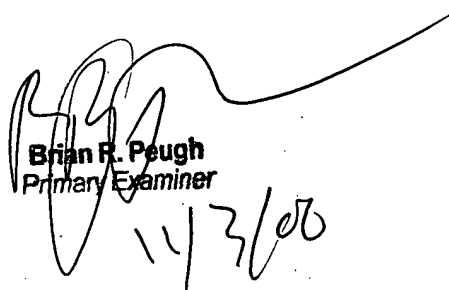
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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jared I Rutz  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2187

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*JS*

  
Brian R. Peugh  
Primary Examiner  
11/3/00